



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2013

No. 107

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of life, as Senators deal with today's challenges, purge their hearts of anything that does not honor You. Remove that which divides them, uniting them in the common task of doing what is best for our Nation and world. When they are tempted to doubt, steady their faith. When they feel despair, infuse them with hope. When they don't know what to do, open their minds to a wisdom that can change and shape our times according to Your plan. Lord, empower them to trust You more fully, live for You more completely, and serve You more willingly.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 24, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a

Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks there will be 1 hour of morning business, with the first half controlled by the Republicans and the second half controlled by the majority.

Following morning business the Senate will resume consideration of the Transportation appropriations bill. Senators MURRAY and COLLINS have done good work. We hope to wrap up this bill in the next 24 hours. We hope to vote in relation to the Portman amendment sometime this morning. We also expect to consider the student loan legislation today. Under the orders that have been entered, we have the ability to vote on the student loan bill, which is so important. There are several hours of debate—4 hours plus other time on various amendments—so I think Members should consider that at about 4 p.m. this afternoon or thereabouts, we could have a series of votes. We also have other nominations that are subject to vote. So we should have a number of votes today. I hope that, in fact, is the case.

I admire and appreciate the work, as I have already mentioned, on the appropriations bill. Hopefully we can wrap it up soon.

OFFICER CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE GIBSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is hard to believe that 15 years ago, as the Pre-

siding Officer knows, Police Officer Jacob Chestnut and Detective John Gibson were killed trying to prevent a crazy man from entering the Capitol. We will have at 3:40 p.m. a moment of silence in memory of these two good men. And, of course, every year their families are there.

I really appreciate the work of the Capitol Police to make this building safe for us, staff, and all the visitors, and there is no time more directed toward that than events like this. But because of the sacrifice those two men made, the Capitol is a safer place as a result of the Visitor Center, which now allows people to come into the Capitol in an orderly fashion. They can have their bags checked and everything so very quickly. In addition, there are restrooms and meeting halls. So the sacrifices made by these two men have made this place safer. It is just tragic that it took both their lives to do that.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half.

The Senator from Illinois.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2668

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 2668 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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